

Call for Papers

Local Authorities on Their Way to Climate Action



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Achieving sustainability and climate change targets relies significantly on local action. The slogan "think global, act local" from Agenda 21 underscores the importance of addressing global issues through local efforts. Sustainable Development Goals like good health, clean energy, innovation, sustainable communities, and climate action are realized through the efforts of diverse actors and institutions.

While existing research often focuses on higher governance levels and big cities, this special issue emphasizes local authorities, especially smaller municipalities such as towns, villages, counties, and districts in rural regions. These areas, home to a significant portion of the global population, are crucial yet often overlooked in sustainability and climate action discussions. This issue aims to fill that gap by presenting novel perspectives from various disciplines and regions, highlighting specific challenges and opportunities in these local settings.

Smaller local authorities face unique challenges related to climate change, housing, mobility, health, and digitalization. These challenges differ from those in metropolitan areas due to factors like lower population density and distinct demographic structures, which limit the applicability of solutions developed for larger cities. This issue will explore these differences, focusing on local micro-politics, demographics, finances, resources, and capacities.

Key questions addressed include:

- Who is involved in local sustainability and climate governance?
- What mechanisms facilitate climate and sustainability processes in smaller municipalities?
- What strategies and policies do local actors use, and how effective are they?
- What challenges do local authorities face, and how do they overcome them?

The special issue will offer insights for both scientists and practitioners, building on a panel at the National Convention of the German Political Science Association (GPSA) and incorporating contributions for a final roster of at least 10 articles.

Guest Editors

- **Jonas Schoenefeld:** Institute for Housing and Environment (IWU), Germany
- **Ulrike Zeigermann:** University of Würzburg; Marc Bloch Centre in Berlin, Germany



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